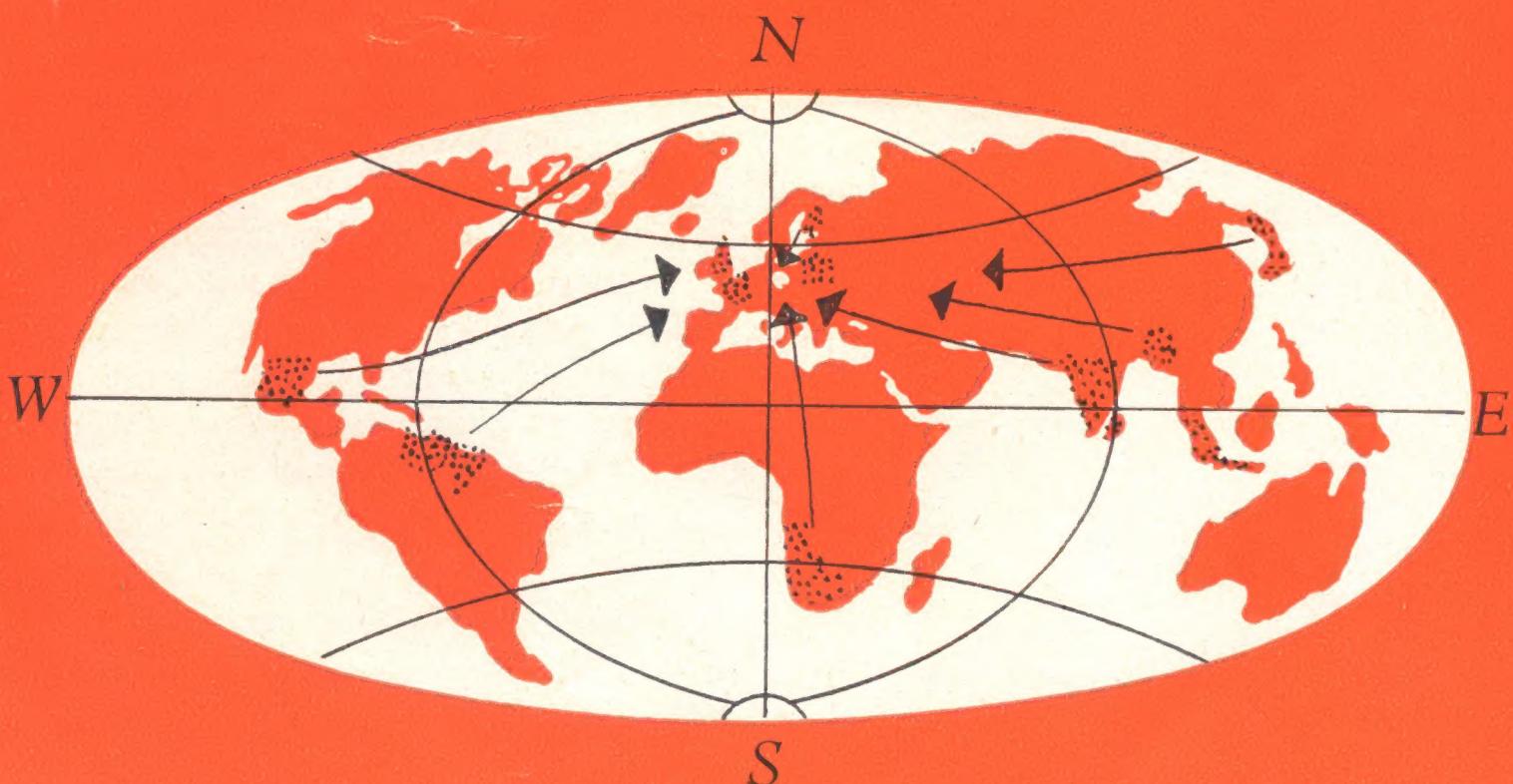
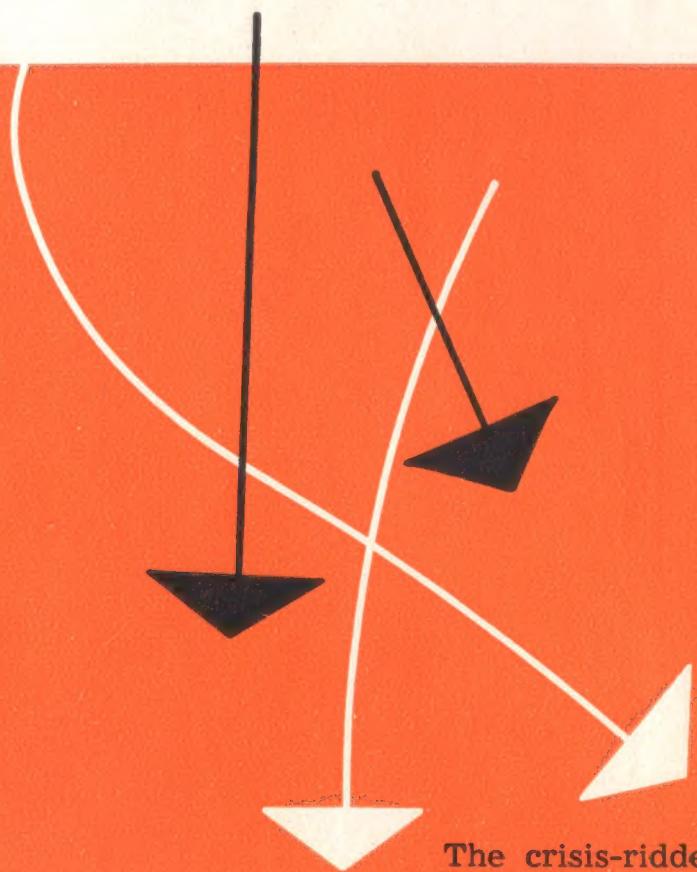


Foreigners Talk about the Wall



FOREIGNERS TALK ABOUT THE WALL



The crisis-ridden situation in West Berlin fills the headlines of the western press. Again and again the word "wall" comes up in talks, discussions and meetings. But today, many months after its construction, the truth about the wall is increasingly gaining ground. Many of those who have been confused or simply misinformed, because of the all-out campaign of hate-propaganda initiated by the revanchists and instigators in the western countries, recognize today that the construction of the wall around the "front-line city" of West Berlin has saved the world from the abyss of a devastating atomic war. After 13 August 1961 parliamentarians, journalists, artists, trade unionists and tourists have seen the wall and formed their own opinion.

In the following we publish some of the many opinions and judgments which have been expressed immediately after the inspection of the anti-fascist protective wall and which can give a picture of the real situation along the Berlin frontier.

Neville Annibourne from British Guiana, General Secretary of the "Progressive Young People" in British Guiana:

THE PROTECTIVE WALL — SYMBOL OF PEACE

"If this wall along a state frontier is in fact something out of the ordinary, a symbol, then it is a symbol of peace. One must be grateful to the people of the GDR for having shown such level-headedness, despite the large number of provocations organized from West Berlin. People here know what war means; and that is why they do not want to be plunged into another, still more disastrous war. A peace treaty and an agreement between the two parts of Germany, as is offered by the GDR, would serve the cause of peace not only in Berlin and Germany, but all over the world."

Dr. Raseta, Senior President of the National Assembly of the Malagasy Republic:

PROTECTIVE WALL IS NECESSARY

"It is absolutely necessary that these provocations (meaning the provocations of the West Berlin extremists) be stopped. I am convinced that East Germany was right in putting up this wall in order to prevent the repetition of such acts. Incidentally, I believe that they are perpetrated by certain people who have an interest in the continuation of dissensions between the two German states, in the perpetuation of the division."

Dr. Raseta expressed this opinion in an interview granted to the journal Aussenpolitische Korrespondenz (Foreign Policy Correspondence) and to Radio Berlin International.

JOURNALISTS SAY:

WALL SAFEGUARDED PEACE

At the invitation of the Association of German Journalists, journalists from 13 African, Asian and Latin Ameri-

can countries visited the GDR. At the end of their stay which lasted for several days they expressed their views about the anti-fascist protective wall at a press conference:



R. Poery Cervantes, Mexico:

"To me the protective wall is an expression of the GDR's determination to stem the tide of the imperialist forces for the benefit of all mankind. It is a wall which promotes the consolidation of peace throughout the world."

L. E. Morrison, Republic of South Africa:

"The situation reminds us of the position in Goa when this territory was still ruled by the Portuguese colonialists which presented a constant danger to sovereign India surrounding Goa. In Africa a similar situation can be observed; most countries are already on the road to independence, but some others, such as the Republic of South Africa, are antagonistic alien bodies interfering with this development."

"But we Africans see still other aspects in this protective wall. We regard it as the best barrier against the forces of imperialism. Just as Portuguese domination over Goa constituted a permanent danger to India, so is West Berlin today a threat to the security and prosperity of the GDR and to peace throughout the world. The normalization of the situation in West Berlin is therefore of paramount importance for the safeguarding of peace on all continents."

Dr. Jayakodi, Ceylon:

"The progressive forces of my country were very happy to learn, in August last year, of the erection of the protective wall. We considered it as proof that one part of the German people, one German state, consistently takes all measures for the protection of peace. This is not only in the interest of the German people, but of all peoples."



60 CIVIC LEADERS FROM FRANCE: WE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THE GDR

At the invitation of the German Association of Towns and Communities in the GDR, 60 civic leaders from France – deputies of various parties, including mayors and head-masters – visited Democratic Berlin. On the anti-fascist protective wall and the border provocations staged by the West Berlin side,

Mr. Prumières, Deputy Mayor of Ivry (Seine) commented:

“We all know how fascists and militarists rage when given a free hand. Frenchmen from almost all towns of our country experienced this in the last war. So we are like a burnt child who dreads the fire. We can thus well understand that the people of the German Democratic Republic and its capital should screen and protect themselves from the militarists and fascists who are certainly to be found in large numbers in West Berlin. We cannot but approve the security measures which have been taken. To leave militarism a free hand would mean to conjure up destruction, tears and death for our towns.”





Kunhanandan Wair from India:

GDR STOPPED THE COLD WARRIORS

The Indian journalist made this statement on the anti-fascist protective wall to the daily newspaper Neues Deutschland:

“There is no doubt at all that every state has the right to protect its sovereignty and integrity against enemy attacks. The protective wall in Berlin reminds me as an Indian, of the Indian security measures on the border with Pakistan where conflicts and incidents are of frequent occurrence. The anti-fascist protective wall of the GDR has rendered, during the year of its existence, extraordinary service to the cause of peace. It has prevented the cold warriors’ march of conquest to the East; it has put an end to extensive economic sabotage of the GDR.

“After all, there wouldn’t be an anti-fascist protective wall if the western powers had not grossly violated the Potsdam Agreement. General Clay’s policy of ‘tank break-throughs’, the misuse of West Berlin as a centre of espionage and sabotage against the GDR and the other socialist countries — a chain of encroachments on peace in the heart of Europe and in the world — all this created the necessity of erecting the protective wall. Incidentally, no self-respecting nation can tolerate such an abnormal situation as the organizing of massive attacks right in the middle of its territory by the enemies of peace.”

Dr. Nyo Mya from Burma:

DANGER SPOT WEST BERLIN MUST BE LIQUIDATED

The editor of the Burmese newspaper Omay Daily and member of the Burmese parliament, Dr. Nyo Mya, defined his attitude to the anti-fascist protective wall in an interview with the daily newspaper Neues Deutschland, at the end of a visit to the GDR.

Neues Deutschland:

“How do you view the West Berlin problem?”

Dr. Nyo Mya:

“One need not have a higher education to answer this question. One only has to take a map. If I look at the map of Central Europe I see two German states and West Berlin situated in the middle of the GDR

The western powers have opened a wound in West Berlin, right in the body of the GDR. Under the influence of false information from West Germany I myself believed for a long time that the protective wall in Berlin was built only because the GDR had allegedly lost the economic competition with West Germany. Now I have seen with my own eyes that the situation is of a completely different nature. The protective wall was put up because of the imminent danger of war emanating from West Berlin. It cannot be only the concern of the Germans to avert this danger. We also have a right to demand that this hotbed of danger be removed. I would therefore like to avail myself of the opportunity offered by my visit to the GDR to demand that negotiations for the peaceful solution of the West Berlin question be continued. I can assure you that we in Burma reject outright the federal government's provocations."

The Fourth Evangelical Clergymen's Meeting in Democratic Berlin was also attended by bishops from abroad. They obtained a first-hand impression of the situation at the anti-fascist protective wall.

Bishop Professor A. Wantula from Poland stated:

"Today I saw this protective wall for the first time. In individual cases it is tragic, in my opinion, that this wall had to be built. But seen from a higher level the protection of this frontier is a necessity. It is a protective wall not only for the GDR, but also for us, for Poland. It is a shield protecting our work of construction, making it possible for our people, too, to live in peace."

Bishop Dr. Katlowski from Czechoslovakia:

"We in Czechoslovakia are well aware of the fact that this wall is not only the border of the GDR but our border as well. Remembering this I have felt obliged to thank the captain of the frontier guards for this service because he is also doing it for us. We understand the events here for the sole reason that we have a common frontier with the Federal Republic. You are doing here what we are doing in our country; side by side we are guarding peace."

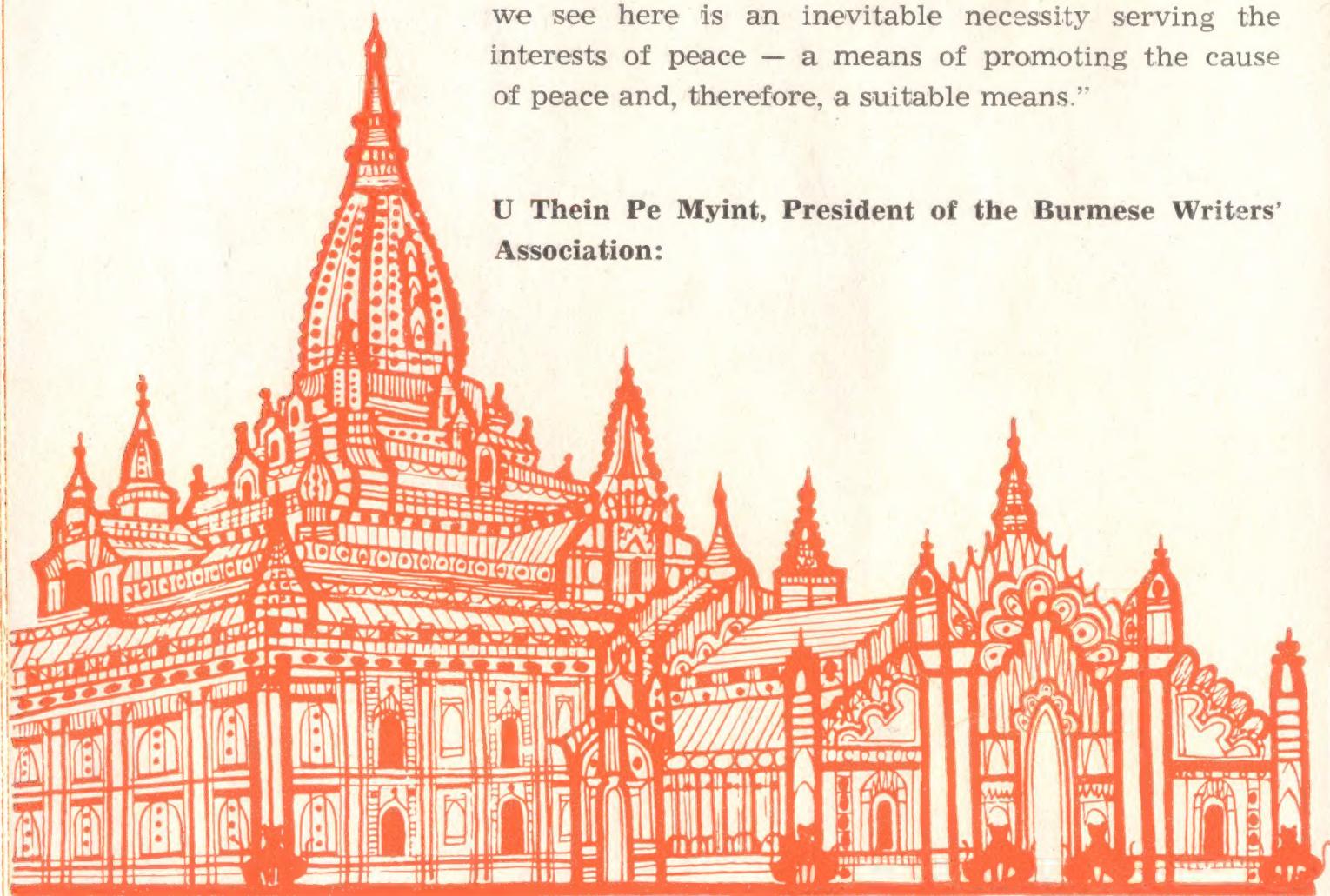


Bishop Dr. L. Veto from Hungary:

"The vestiges of the Second World War have not yet been eliminated. This is not the fault of the socialist countries but the fault of those who are interested in such a situation.

"This gives rise to disturbances endangering peace not only in Berlin or in Germany. So I repeat: what we see here is an inevitable necessity serving the interests of peace — a means of promoting the cause of peace and, therefore, a suitable means."

U Thein Pe Myint, President of the Burmese Writers' Association:



GDR PROTECTIVE WALL STOPPED THE MILITARISTS

"The construction of the protective wall last August prevented the further advance of the West German militarists and put an end to the economic sabotage and espionage carried out against the GDR and the socialist camp. West Berlin is today a cancerous growth which must be operated on. When I visited a border checkpoint I saw the GDR national flag flying on this side and the American flag on the other side. In my view, the whole of Berlin belongs to the GDR, both for political and geographic reasons."

Claudio Cedano, General Secretary of the Caracas District Association of Venezuelan Journalists:

THE PROTECTIVE WALL — A NECESSARY MEASURE

"The erection of the protective wall in Berlin was a necessary measure to curb the West Berlin and West German revanchists and war-mongers. The policy of the GDR government is correct because it prevents a new crime against humanity. It is apparent that West Berlin is to serve the imperialists as a base for the preparation of a war against the socialist countries. It is just for this reason that the revanchist and fascist forces have been rallied and encouraged to engineer provocations. Moreover, they engage in an infamous campaign of slander to try to blame the GDR for the incidents at the 'wall'. But I can assure you that our people who are oppressed and enslaved themselves, do not give any credit to such hue and cry, despite the lies to be found in the press of our country as well. Many people in Venezuela are well aware of the fact that there are two German states one of which — the GDR — has punished the war criminals and puts forth every effort for the cause of peace."

Maune Tamminen, General Secretary of the "Finnish People's Democratic Union":

"The security measures along the GDR state frontier have clarified the situation, making it possible for all people to recognize the urgency of the peaceful solution of the German and West Berlin problems."

Mamady Sissoko, General Secretary of the "National Union of the Working People of Mali":

"The present situation in West Berlin heightens cold war tensions. The Berlin protective wall has considerably reduced the possibility of provocations."

Arthur Lindholm, Social Democratic Trade Union General Secretary in Gentofte, Denmark:

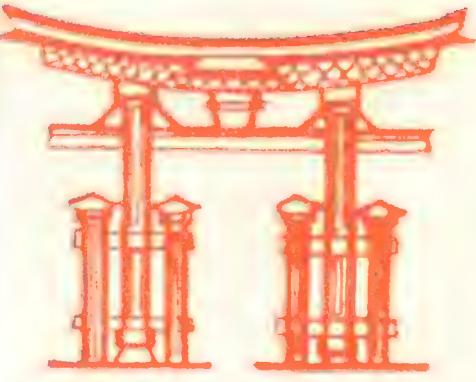
"The continuous provocations staged by the West Berlin side along the GDR state frontier in Berlin show how necessary it was to erect such a wall between East

and West Berlin. The situation in Berlin was no longer bearable prior to 13 August.

"As long as war criminals and revanchists find shelter in West Berlin, the GDR is especially endangered. One need only think of such people as Police Councillor Grau-rock in order to understand that the GDR cannot feel secure when such people can again occupy high police posts. The continuous provocations of the West Berlin side along the GDR state frontier are once again pushing the world towards the abyss of war. No sober-minded person can want a war to be launched over West Berlin. The war-mongering German imperialists who unleashed two world wars must finally be muzzled by the peoples."

DELEGATES OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS VISITED THE FRONTIER WITH WEST BERLIN





In late September 1962 the Fourth International Trade Conference of the Trade Unions International of Metal and Engineering Workers in the World Federation of Trade Unions was held in Democratic Berlin. More than 150 delegates afterwards inspected the anti-fascist protective wall and talked to soldiers and officers of the GDR frontier security forces.

Isao Hasegawa, head of the Japanese delegation and member of the Japanese Shipbuilders' Trade Union declared in the discussion:

“We know that you are performing a duty which serves our country as well. We Japanese regard the ultimate aim of our endeavours to be a world without arms. We know, however, that this is still a vision at the moment. When we approve your task here it is only because it serves the protection of peace.”

Mohammed Elias, General Secretary of the Indian Metalworkers' Trade Union stated in the same discussion:

“We Indians are convinced that these soldiers are fulfilling one of the most difficult tasks in the world. With their arms they are protecting not only the German Democratic Republic, but also the people interested in a lasting peace. We Indians know quite well that provocations are continuously being staged from West Berlin to fan up a war. That is why we would welcome the conclusion of a German peace treaty, thus stamping out this centre of provocations in the heart of the German Democratic Republic. I feel quite justified in wishing the GDR frontier guards, on behalf of the entire Indian people, and especially Indian workers and trade unionists, all the best for their service at this legitimate frontier.”



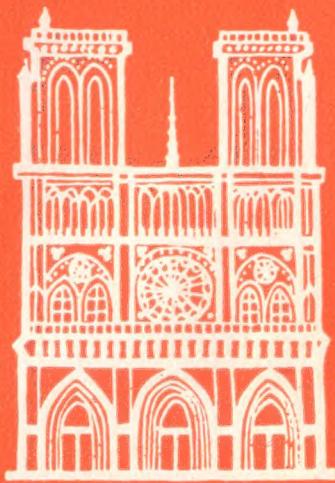
Raimonde Dien, the well-known French peace-fighter also took part in the inspection:

"Many things have changed in Berlin since my last visit on the occasion of the World Festival in 1951. Where there were ruins then modern buildings now stand. What the GDR now needs is a peace treaty. Thereby, all countries would have to recognize its legitimate frontiers and all provocations would come to an end. I speak on behalf of French women, as a mother of three children, when I wish you, as one of the first steps, a demilitarized Free West Berlin."

VICTIMS OF FASCISM EXPRESS SATISFACTION



Seventy anti-fascist resistance fighters from many European and overseas countries who had participated in a big mass meeting in memory of the victims of fascism on 9 September 1962 in Democratic Berlin on the following day obtained an impression of the situation at the anti-fascist protective wall. The foreign guests who, almost without exception, had personally experienced fascist barbarity stated with satisfaction that the security measures of the GDR government on 13 August 1961 called a halt to the intentions of the extremists in West Germany and West Berlin.



Charles Bossi, member of the Secretariat of the National Federation of Deported and Interned Persons, Resistance Fighters, and Patriots of France declared:

“Although your security measures may be unpleasant to many they are of extreme importance for the peace of the world.”

Japanese philosopher Kyozabero Hiraki commented:

“The German proletariat took over ruins from fascism and, at great effort, built a new Germany in the GDR. I believe that the wall was put up for the effective protection of this Germany which came into being in the GDR, and to preserve peace for the German people.”

Kyozabero Hiraki expressed this view during a visit to the GDR state frontier at the Brandenburg Gate.

Colonel R. Agus Subekti, Naval and Naval Air Force Attaché to the Indonesian Embassy in Moscow:

“Here the people of the GDR are protecting and defending their right which results from the mission to build socialism in the GDR.”

Colonel Subekti was in the GDR in late October 1962 as a guest of the Ministry of National Defence and he summed up his impressions of the anti-fascist protective wall with the words quoted above.

The real reasons for the erection of the anti-fascist protective wall in Berlin are also understood by parliamentarians and influential politicians in the western countries.

Thus, Richard Crossman, Labour M. P. from Great Britain,

declared during a political discussion at the West German-British Society in Düsseldorf on 15 October:

“West Germany’s refusal to negotiate and the cold war against the GDR are one of the reasons for the erection of the protective wall.”





INDIA'S BIGGEST WEEKLY BLITZ ON THE POWDER-KEG WEST BERLIN:

The foreign guests, of course, expressed their impressions about the anti-fascist protective wall not only when in the GDR; they have also propagated the truth about the Berlin wall after returning to their countries. We shall pick out only one of the many examples: the well-known Indian journalist Mr. R. K. Karanjia, published, on 28 July a sensational report about the powder-keg West Berlin in India's biggest weekly Blitz. In this report he also commented on the anti-fascist protective wall:

"It served the cause of world peace since it halted the advance of the German neo-Hitlerites towards the East, forced the world to recognize the reality of the division of Germany and thus supports negotiation. The Berlin wall is, indeed, the visible expression of a security and control system set up by the GDR along the open borders around West Berlin. There is nothing illegal or aggressive in it, since any sovereign nation has the right to close its frontiers to hostile forces."
(retranslated from German)

The Indian journalist discloses in his article the connection between Adenauer's provocative visits to West Berlin and the intensification of the attacks against the anti-fascist protective wall and GDR citizens. He concludes his comprehensive article on the Berlin situation with the remark:

"Any serious clash here in Berlin would mean nothing less than a third world war. That is why the

Berlin wall should be welcomed as the symbol of a peaceful, humanitarian determination that Hitler shall never return. It is to be hoped that the cold and hot warriors of the German wild west will read the writing on this wall." (retranslated from German)

These few opinions stand for many. They speak for themselves. At the same time they expose the unbridled hate-campaign which is conducted about the 'wall' from West Berlin. They are irrefutable testimony to the truth about the anti-fascist protective wall put up by the GDR government around the danger spot West Berlin.

They confirm the necessity of transforming the NATO base in the heart of the GDR into a neutral Free City so that peace may be preserved.

